

EFFECT OF STEROIDS ON NMDA RECEPTORS DEPENDS ON SUBUNIT  
COMPOSITION  
ABSTRACT OF DISCLOSURE

Disclosed is a method for identifying a subunit  
5 specific modulator of the N-methyl-D-aspartate (NMDA)  
receptor. The method involves providing a plurality of NMDA  
receptors which differ in their subunit identity. The  
receptors are contacted with a neurotransmitter recognition  
10 site ligand in the presence and absence of a candidate  
modulator. Receptor activity is then assayed, with an  
increase or decrease in activity in at least one, but not  
all members of the plurality of NMDA receptors, in the  
presence but not the absence of a candidate modulator, being  
an indication that the candidate modulator is a subunit  
15 specific modulator. The subunit identity of the subset of  
the NMDA receptors to determine the subunit specificity of  
the candidate modulator. Various combinations of NMDA  
receptor subunits are provided.